



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

*REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT*

For Immediate Release -- Contact: Stephanie Lundberg or Darin Schroeder
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Kind Offers MILC Program Extension Legislation

Washington, D.C. – Today, Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) and Minnesota colleague, Rep. Collin Peterson, introduced bipartisan legislation that would extend the Milk Income Loss Compensation (MILC) Program through September 2007, to coincide with the next farm bill debate. At present the program is set to expire September 30, 2005.

“The MILC program is a very important, market-oriented safety net to dairy farmers and rural communities here in Wisconsin; helping many hardworking men and women stay in business during a nearly two year period of historic low prices,” said Kind. “In fact, MILC has reduced the permanent loss of dairy farms in our state since its enactment.”

The Milk Income Loss Contract Program, established by the 2002 farm bill, is the first national dairy program to transcend the usual regional tension that have arisen over past safety net proposals. The MILC provides a basic level of direct support to all dairy operations, regardless of the end use of the farmers’ milk, by providing assistance only on the first 2.4 million pounds of production annually (roughly equivalent of production from a 130 cow operation). As a result, nearly 86% of all dairy farms in the country, and nearly 90% in the Upper Midwest, are fully eligible for assistance under this limit.

“I know most dairy farmers would prefer to see strong market prices that adequately compensate them for the quality products they produce,” stated Kind. “But when market prices fall below where they ought to be, the MILC program must be there to help family farmers make ends meet.”

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